FROM THE new WORLD
3
Story by Yusuke Kishi
Art by Toru Oikawa

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Squealer

Prolocutor of the Robber Fly morph rat colony. Speaks excellent Japanese and shows obeisance to humans.

Kiromaru

Supreme commander of the Giant Hornet Colony, the largest and most powerful colony in Kanto. Marshals more than 20,000 troops.

The story thus far...

Caught up in a Morph Rat war, the five members of Group 1 escape the poison gas attack, but Shun suddenly collapses. After Kiromaru and his Giant Hornet Colony annihilate the overseas Rats, Saki and her friends can finally head home. Leaving Shun in the care of adults who have come for them, the other four are ready to leave. Saki learns, however, that Shun is turning into a Karma Demon and is about to be disposed of, so she sneaks out alone to try and bring him back. But his time is running out. As she is parted from her beloved Shun, Saki promises to inherit his dreams. Yet, when she returns to town, Shun has been deleted from her memories, while false ones of Ryo have been implanted in their place...

Reiko Amano

Childhood friend of Saki. Made it into the Holistic Class but struggled to control her magick. She vanished one day, from Saki and the others' memories, too.

Shisei Kaburagi

The most powerful magick user in Kamisu 66 Acreage where Saki and the others live.

Mushin

Abbot of the Temple of Purity outside the Border Rope. A high priest and respected man of character.

Saki Watanabe

A curious and active girl. She lights up everything as the core of Group 1 in the Holistic Class. She can be very decisive and is mentally very strong.

Shun Aonuma

Wise and trusted, his magick skills were superb, but he developed Karma Demon symptoms and offed himself once he realized his fate.

Mamoru Ito

A meek, gentle boy. A graduate of Friendship Academy who became friends with Saki and the others at the Holistic Class. Good at drawing.

Characters

From the New World

Profiles

Satoru Asahina

Childhood friend of Saki. Exchanges taunts with her and likes to spook people with tall tales that may or may not be true.

Maria Akizuki

Best friends with Saki. A beautiful girl with flame-red hair. Strong-willed and blunt-spoken yet unaffected at heart.

CONTENTS

9

FALSE MEMORIES

5

10

FALSE WHITE CAPE

45

11

BLOODY HISTORY

83

12

WEAK LINK

133

THREE DAYS AFTER SUMMER CAMP...
Yah!
CHATTER
CHATTER
...
FWUP
OUR HARROWING EXPERIENCES WITH THE MORPH RATS SAFELY KEPT FROM THE ADULTS,
WHOOSH
Go!
WHOOSH
THAT WHOLE ROMP IS GROUP 1'S—
JUST *US FIVE*'S—
SECRET MEM-ORY.

Chapter 9
False Memories

Yups!
Do your best, Ryo!
Yes!
Whew.
That's enough. Next! Ryo Inaba!
I wonder what the magick fireworks will be like?
It's almost the summer festival!
Can't wait!
we should go separately?
Wha?!
So, Saki... I guess for this year's festival...
Summer festival...
HEE HEE
Saki...
Seems like you're still making him draw pictures of us, too...
Why?! Wait, Maria, are you going with Mamoru?!
N-No, that's not it!

you confessed your feelings to Ryo at summer camp
and started dating him, right?
That's right ...
Con-grats. You two have fun ...
The one I've always loved ...
my childhood friend ...
きゅ GRIP

I'm now dating Ryo !!
Thanks, Maria !

Heh heh... Well...
What was Ryo's reply?
Hey, so what did you say to him?

Oooo?
Your words turned my world upside down... What a sparkling dream! I bet that was when...
Yeah.
you'd worry adults by saying that you wanted to go see pretty things in the outside world.
I fell in love with you!
always loved you!
Be-cause I

Argh, whatta waste!
Was I too nervous ?!
Gaah!
Huh? I'm having a hard time remembering that day ...
Um... It's a secret!
What ?!

'Cause... everything's just begun for us!
But... it's okay!

I don't think I can beat you at magick anymore!
Amazing, Setoru!
ha ha! I will, Ryo!

So happy!

How did it start ?
Hey, Ryo, what do you like about me?
Hmm. Your liveliness and pretty eyes?
Heh heh... So when did you start liking me?

I guess before I even realized.
Oh—
Huh?
...?
Am I feeling anxious 'cause I'm too happy!?
I have no reason!
Nope... I need more! Enough happiness to blow away this anxiety!
So shy.
What's this cute creature?
No
I said it...
!
Let's kiss.
Um, Ryo...

I won't stop even if you tell me you were kissing, okay?
Yeah
You sure?
Yeah

Saki
Ah

finally ...
It's like a dream ...
with Ryo !
with Ryo ...

What? Why did I...
I told you, Saki...
?
?!
Uh... ah... uhm...
Huh... Saki?
Wait...
No...
Huh?!
that I wouldn't stop!!

I'll kiss your lips once you're really ready.
Oh
Sorry... Thanks, Ryo.
SMAK
!
So sweet!

So why did I...
Ryo's great ...
Now Saki, about the summer festival. Wanna go together?

my own feelings...
I don't under-stand
ごしごし

カラン
ha ha ha ha!
Hey, wait up!
Sorry to make you wait
!

Wow, Saki! Our yukatas match! Amazing! I love it!
Maria, you look so pretty in yours!
Maria!
Come, let's go!
!
Heh heh!

Gargh
!

BUK
BUK

Here, sweet cake for the young ladies.
Whoa, that looked so tiny before that thing was a kid.
Nom nom nom

So pretty!
Wow!
For...
Thank you...
choosing me today!

I can't even explain it myself ...
Why didn't I want to come with Ryo ?

But ...

Ah, those are pretty too!

Oh, wow... Look!

Saki
!

come with Maria
I'm so glad I could

What do you want to do until the fireworks, Saki? Shall the food stalls?

Saki ?
That's
!
Hmm, I wonder...
Hey, Saki Satoru

What's wrong, Satoru? You seem down.
It's nothing
Really? Kay...
Sob
どぜっ

I don't get it. I liked him so much
Something's wrong with me. Just seeing Kyo makes me feel uneasy ...
Saki!
Hng
"Hng"?
What's going on?
N- Nothing at all

!!
Hey, Saki, let's get naughty until the fireworks
S-Stop it, Mari... ahh...
H-how did you get there?!
You don't have to tell me what's up. I just wanna make you feel better.
!
Well, you seem uneasy, Saki.
Hey, Saki? Let's go to our secret place... huh?
Ok...
lick
B-But... h-how...?
Nn...
Shhh
N-no! Don't look...

Well... That's cause you...
Saki, your face is all red. Was the anticipation killing you?
It's just that you're a kinky girl, right, right ♡
I love kissing Mariya ♡

I'll be good to you ♡
Come here, Saki.

MARIA, MY BEST FRIEND, LOVELIER, KINDER THAN ANYONE,
WHO NOTICED MY BAD MOODS RIGHT AWAY—
COMPARED TO HER, I WAS THICK-HEADED.
UNTIL THE VERY END, I—

FAILED TO PICK UP ON HER TRUE FEELINGS.

What ?!
Er- rand ?!
Sorry, Saki, I forgot I gotta run.
But it's almost time for the fireworks!
Sorry♡
WHAAT?

You're terrible, Maria. It won't be fun watching this on my own.
Geez!

So anxious...
Just those two...
But the only people I can count on aren't my parents or the rich, arrogant Maria and Satoru.
Because of them, I'm always left out of things with my friends.

Mr. Shisei Kabu-ragi.
We're gettin' closer!
Hey, this way!
Wait! Not yet!
You are...

regarding Group J's summer camp.
I've come to lodge a protest.

They attempted individual contact with Morph Rats and to expose concealed matters,
clear violations of the Ethics Code.

It is absurd for the Committee to hesitate on disposal!

As head of the BOE, I request the Ethics Committee's reply.
Ms. Tonigai
Why is disposal off the table?

The BOE will consider disposal independently.
Seki Watanabe in particular is a risk factor... We can't leave her at large.

...

I apologize, as chair of the Ethics Committee.

!!
I'm really sorry, Hiromi.

Lady Tomiko!
As the Committee's chairwoman I decided by fiat not to dispose of Group 1, for certain reasons...
Can you let this go?

There he is! Little Kabu!
Oh?

Please do continue to observe them if you may.
Yes.
...Yes. If it was your judgment, far be it from me to...

Maam!

Gee hee hee
Expects the world from Kofu Ring!
As the Vacations Council head, I can't keep losing to Little Kobo.
Yes. I'm looking forward to both your displays.
I'll go and prepare now too.
How goes this year's magick fireworks?
Kofu!
Nwa hah hah
Goo-d evening, Lady Tomiko.

I know you're there. Come out.

Here's today's
Geez. I said you didn't have to keep doing these.
Ma-moru!

Why do you keep drawing them?
Well?!

Be-
cause
I like
you,
Maria!
Yeah
I
saw
that
from
waaay
back.
Really
?
A-
No...
Do
you know
why I made
you draw
pictures of
me and
Seki?

'Cause I am happi- est
when I'm with her !

I don't hate you, Mamoru.
But give up.
I love Saki more than anyone else in the world.

So stop drawing these. I only asked you thanks to our secret magick training since we needed to leave you out and keep you from catching on...
Hm... That's odd
Hm?

I can't remember...
Who were we helping with the training?
Hey, Rio
Hm? What's wrong, Satoru? Not feeling well after all?
Huh?
It doesn't feel right.
Recently, in magick class, I just keep beating you, don't I?
During summer camp, I felt so inferior to you, but more than that, in awe of you.
I could never beat you but always wanted to be at my best friend's side.

Oh!
ドドド
The guy that I looked up to... isn't you, Ryo!
Right
It was for my dear childhood friend, a girl...
ドドド
cough

ドパア
アア

Now I'll say goodbye

I want you to create a world where no one will suffer the same fate as Reiko and me.
Search for the False White Cape.
Finding it is the only way to figure out this world.

How awful
very

Shun
...
Reiko
!

Before the adults realize I've gotten my memories back!

Hm, Sen.
I feel weird. Con-fused

You guys

!

You know something, don't you?

Let's search for the False White Cape!

I'd be put out if they didn't ...

It's only a matter of time before Group 1 starts to feel odd about the "substitute". Or rather...

...
Yeah.
Let's go.

AND THUS, OF OUR OWN WILL,
SEEKING THE TRUTH ABOUT THE WORLD THAT THE ADULTS HID, WE CROSSED THE BORDER ROPE AGAIN.

WE TOOK OUR FIRST STEPS TOWARDS THAT DAY
WHEN SO MUCH WOULD TURN TO ASH AND DUST.

FROM
THE
NEW
WORLD

Mt. Tsukuba...
To think we'd be back so soon...
Okay! Let's get straight to the hunt!
Eek?!
Mamoru! Stop jumping at every-thing!
But if they find out we went outside the Rope they might dispose of us too!
Aren't you scared, Maria?
I...
I'm not.
I gotta be strong.

Chapter 10
False White Cape

Waaaah!
Waaah!
?
So—
When we grow up we can use an amazing power called magic.
Maria, did you know?
A F-Fiend is gonna come and eat everybody.
What's wrong, Maria?
Saki!
If any Fiends come I'll protect you!
SHE'D LEAD ME BY MY HAND DURING ROUGH TIMES.
I LOVE SAKI. ALWAYS AT THE CENTER OF US.

I'll always love you.
If you're weak, Maria, I'll be strong.
I WANTED TO BE LIKE HER.
SHE'S BRAVE, STRONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
Shun told you to search for the False White Cape?
A fake whitecape... I've heard of one.
Really Satoru?
So that like some fake version of the whitecapes we sometimes see in paddies?
Should we go check?
I heard a rumor of a sighting on Mt. Tayrube.
It looks just like a real whitecape, but on top of being immune to magick, anyone who runs into it dies within days.
The Devil Whitecape.

Shun's final words were that if we found it, we'd learn the truth about the world.
He also said he wanted a world where no one would wear his or Reiko's face.
I want to create that world!
Please, help me, guys!
FAR FROM GRASPING HER DOWN-TO-EARTH TRAGEDIES ONLY MAKES HER FORTITUDE
SHE'D FOUND THE MARGIN FAITH SHE NEEDED TO WALK
WE COULD TELL AT A GLANCE THAT SHE'D CHANGED!
WITH SUCH A FUTURE IN STORE FOR SAKI, WOULD I STILL BE ABLE TO STAY AT HER SIDE?

There's no way I won't be a drag on her!
I am ready now to protect you.

I want to be with Saki forever...
If those were Shun's last words, we gotta do it!!

So I...
have to be strong too!!

I'm going to be someone who can stand by her!
Thanks, Maria!
I'm in too!
Um...
We're fine, yeah?
Are we sure the adults don't know?
Knock it off! If you're scared, you shouldn't have come! Why did you anyways?!
Everyone in town is busy cleaning up after the festival. No one'll notice if we return by nightime.
We're okay! We snuck out and didn't get on boats until past the Rope.
B-But...

!!

There
!
Guys, be quiet!

What's it doing all alone?
Morph Rat?

D-Don't you get itch!
Ma-mora!!
W-We gotta run...
Aah
Ah...

It's looking for us ...
The adults know we're here !

!!

!!
ドン ドン
No, that can't be...
The adults will... dispose of us too...
Calm down! Let's move away

Haha
Haha
Haha

Ah, huh...

Stop talking nonsense!
Let's head back to town! If we apologize right away the police might forgive us...

Saki ?
Ah!

Huh ?

Is that ...

No !!
Just a regular whitecape ...no?
B-But it seems

It's a false white-cape !!
SWIPE
Catch it!
!!
?!

can't move ?!
I...

Is it the Devil in white cape?
Was it that flesh of light?
Can't use my sick either

No way. No!!

Will we die here ?!

!!
I-I can move! Thank goodness.
Back to no—
Guyn!
We're going after that false white-cape!!
What?!
Come back here, you little
Me, too!
So fast, Sah! Already on to your next move?

Yaaaagh
!!

The tentacles. It's gonna reach under light at any moment!
There it is!!
!!

Grab those tentacles
Whap
I won't let you!!
and yank them out!!
!!

Yeah!
Nice, Maria!

Got it!
Keep going! Pull them all out!

There!

?
Refrain from any further vandalism please.
!
F-from where?!
A woman's voice?
You're kidding me!
It talked
!!
Abbreviating all procedures.
Prioritizing damage evasion.

I am the Tsukuba Branch of the National Diet Library.
Good day.

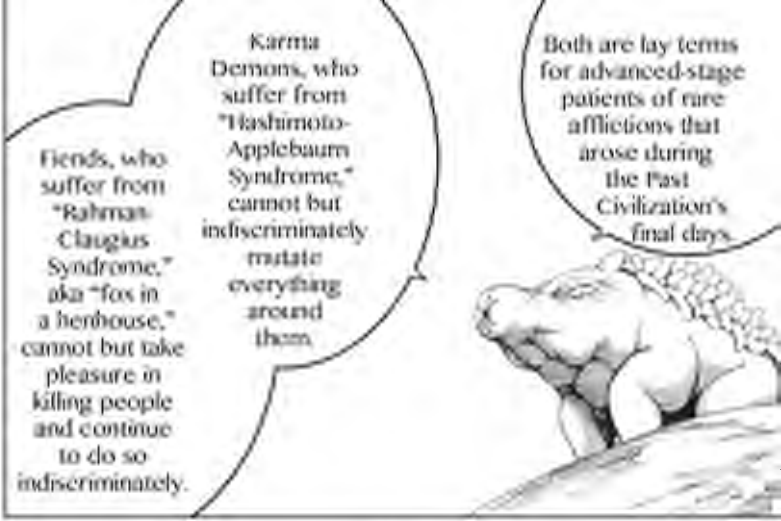
Initializing query and reference services ...
?!
Wh-What is going on?!

Library? My mother's a librarian at the one in town...
Uh, Um...
What the heck is it?!
It's talking
What do you mean "library"?!
Hey, you! What are you?!
you may retrieve any and all monographs as well as audio and visual data published up to 2129 CE, a total of 890 petabytes, whenever you wish.
I'm a self-propelled archive, autonomic-evolving version Model SE-778Hλ. If you meant my function ...

Precisely.
Wh-
What?
That means if we ask a question you'll find an answer from one of your books?
Did you say "query and reference services"?

If it really... contains every book from the past...
That's why Shuri said to look for a false whitespace...
Huh?!
I get it! I see!!

That first off,
what are Karma Demons? And Fiends...
every-thing about this world.
we can learn


Fiends, who suffer from "Rahman-Claudius Syndrome," aka "fox in a henhouse," cannot but take pleasure in killing people and continue to do so indiscriminately.
Karma Demons, who suffer from "Hashimoto-Applebaum Syndrome," cannot but indiscriminately mutate everything around them.
Both are lay terms for advanced-stage patients of rare afflictions that arose during the Past Civilization's final days.

They are highly likely to reappear in the future.

So Fiends really exist, too?

Let me ask another question.
Wait, Sabaru!
Then

So it wasn't a fable?
Liar

Tell me
Saki?
Huh? Okay

!!
what exactly is magick ?

that you want to know ?
Saki, what's the point ?
What's with that, Saki ?

Following cognitive scientist Imran Ismailov's successful experiment, the number of awakened people suddenly increased until a maximum of...
Magick is an ability that the Past Civilization referred to as psychokinesis or PK and considered a figment of the occult.

some power falling under that rubric.
0.3% of the global populace came to wield

So then
Just 0.3%
That's all...
Is that... what Saki wanted to hear?
I don't get it at all

why did the Past Civiliza-tion
fall into ruin?

Why the... What does she hope to learn with that question?
What are you trying to get at, Saki? Don't we wanna know other stuff?

Aah...
Ah
Huh... Maria?
?!
Gasp
I'd rather not have guessed... what Saki wants to learn... It's...
exterminated the other 99.7% to become 100% of humanity!! No... Just imagining it... I don't wanna hear it!
the history of how a measly 0.3% our ancestors,

Even if she'll hate me...

Enough, stop... Can we go home ?
I... don't want to hear anymore. I'm scared, Saki...
!
Maria
I'm weak and selfish... Sorry, Saki...
Ugh. I said it.
Ma-ria

Sa...
ki...?
In order to move forward I need to know!
Sorry, Maria.

KUSSS
?
...

tell me!
False white-cape.

?!
GHOSH.

It may surprise you to learn that the trigger for the downfall was pulled here, in the Japanese archipelago, in 2012.
2WLF
That light again?! No, it's different...
Um...

!!

Culture, medicine, and social systems in full bloom, communication technologies connecting the world, it was humanity's most refined era.
Huh ?!
Wha ?!
!!
What you are about to see is...

Tokyo, as it was in 2012.
!!
Japan's capital city,

?!
And this ...

The town... All those people...
A-Ahh...

Please note that this spatial vid is a rendition from later years based on archival
!
in Tokyo after the disruption caused by an increase in PK users.

I DID SENSE THAT THE STEP I'D TAKEN WASN'T ONE I COULD UNDO.
A SIGHT AND INFORMATION I COULDN'T HOPE TO FULLY COMPREHEND EVEN SO,

Ugh...
Ugh...
WE HAD OPENED PANDORA'S BOX.
Um...
Um...

PULARY
The incident began during a certain TV program's live broadcast.

FROM
THE
NEW
WORLD

Chapter 11
Bloody History

Unknown World live-debate special!
To continue—regarding whether the hole-filled clouds spotted over Tokyo are the work of PK users...
Like I said, they were left by UFOs! There's no such thing as psycho forces!
A true record of the past 1000 years
It must surely exist
where no one will suffer Shun or Reiko's fate!!
clues for creating a world

I guess I've no choice but to prove it on live TV.
Uhm.. I'm one of the guys who made the holes in the clouds. Since you folks keep spouting crap about how psychic powers can't be real.
Now then, we seem to have a call from a viewer. Hello?
But is this really what triggered the Past Civilization's collapse?

!!!
I'm gonna blow him up using psychic powers, hokay?
Using magick on people?!
It's a live feed from another channel about a bad guy being released
Do you see that?

Quick, cut the feed! Get on him, too!
What, what? An "on-air mishap"?
Just a prank, I'm sure.
Here we go!
Fire !!
!!

AAAAAAAA

A... human using magick to kill another human!
Turn off the TV, now!
He killed him...
EE EE EK

It triggered the awakening of PK users, explosively increasing their numbers throughout the world.
This footage proving the existence of PK went viral across the globe.

Why did our ancestors do such awful things?!

They were the same age as us?!
Notably, the newly awakened were all children experiencing puberty.

!!
swallowed the world.
In time, chaos

The "survivors" subsequently attempted to exterminate all users, drastically reducing the latter's numbers.
Perhaps prompted to self-evolve by their dire straits, users acquired powers equivalent to an arsenal of nukes.
and thus the Past Civilization came to a close.
The fighting escalated until all states fell.
PK attacks freely occurred in both.
Nations where strife was the norm...
!!
Peaceful nations ...

I don't want to believe that the same ugliness exists in us.
Human beings hating and killing one another just like Marsh Rats...

One of those must be from ancient times.

Concrete data is sparse, but people are said to have split into four groups in Japan.
What happened after the fall of the Past Civilization?

The slave dynasty lasted several hundred years before going extinct.
The raiders were the first to be exterminated.

Why did those two fail to survive?

The last group saw fit to transmit science and technology.
The second, all consisting of non-users, lived as hunting tribes hiding in the wild.
The first became a slave dynasty with users ruling over the many non-users.
The third, all users, wandered as raiding tribes.

Hoping to preempt one another, they wiped themselves out.
Be-tween users, the first to strike wins.
!!
Mutual destruction by PK.

But studies seem to have been conducted.
No detailed data has survived.
Why didn't our ancestors try to find another solution ?!
They went on killing each other even after the fall of civilization ?!
Why ...

"How to kill PK users"
In the latter days of the Past Civilization, the secondmost researched topic after

PK attacks on people."
was "How to prevent
Pre-vent ?
Research on how humanity could build a peaceful world after having acquired PK.
!!
First: All children whose PK had awakened would be gathered in one school to be educated.
The importance of education was rediscovered as a means to control human aggression.
Wh-what does that mean exactly ?

the Ho-listic Class ?!
As for that ...

Children would be managed thoroughly, and to make sure they held no tiresome ideas,
psycho-logical guidance techniques would be employed to better educate
further more,
data would be collected via psycho-logical testing,

and risk factors would be extracted
and disposed of.

...
Second, insert "dying of shame" into human DNA as actual coding.
Dying of shame?
Yes, a shame-death code.
No, wait.
I know
That is to say, those with Hashimoto-Applebaum Syndrome, at risk of turning into Karma Demons,
would be disposed of as well.
Ah!
No
Ah...
Furthermore, those with less-than-stable PK control
who might unwittingly do harm to their surroundings

what that is.
wolves and other animals with lethal striking power have genes that restrain intraspecies aggression so they don't kill one another.
The shinne death code is an even more powerful version implanted in human DNA.
But wasn't that just a lesson? A fable?
Don't you mean that thing in kindergarten picture books where doing something really bad gets you killed 'cause the gods punish you?
force the attacker to commit suicide by PK.
When the brain identifies an attack on another human, it will automatically
!!
Fiends and Karma Demons exist. No reason to doubt this one either.
Ma-ria...
That can't be true!?

Our ancestors manipulated their own genes!

If all of the above measures are implemented, interpersonal PK attacks...
A new method needed to come into play.
The enablement of the eliminate-death order signified, however, that the children would be beyond the capacity of humans.

That few ?!
But... doesn't that mean...
are calculated to fall to just
1 in 3,000,000.

a humanity endowed with magick could hope for?
the world as it is now is the best one
But if that's the case...
with no daily killing like in the Moran Rats' world...
This world, as it is now, is the most peaceful— arrived at through mankind's ingenuity...

there's nothing I can do!
What other research was there?
Huh?

It's too soon to lose hope!
Not yet...
Sa-toru?!

Bonobos are primates native to Africa.
Bono...sos?
Huh?
with the prospect of remaking human society into "a bonobo-type society of love."
After Animo2 effective in preventing interpersonal attacks.

Such stress relief helps create a conflict-free society.
Bonobo chimps resort to sexual contact in situations ranging from greetings to making-up. Pseudo-sexual behavior also occurs among same-sex as well pre-reproductive members.
the principle is indeed applicable to human society.
From the perspective of preventing interpersonal attacks,
What ?
Namely, encouraging homosexual behavior among pubescent children whose psyches are unstable, would likely afford a positive outcome.
D-

Does that include
my relationship ...
with Maria ?!

So...
people weren't
like that in the past?
Maria?
Homosexuality was suppressed in many regions, 1,000 years ago at least.

Isn't it normal between best friends? It's... not?
What? But everyone does it...
No, no, no, no, no !!
No !!

those happy memories ...
my feelings for Saki ...
Then ...

are all
fake ?

Let's go home!
?!
Haven't you heard enough, Saki?!
Maria!!
Nooo!!

F-False white-cape!
I can't accept that... I need to know more!
But at this rate, Shuri and Reiko were necessary sacrifices

vanish to?!
Where did the non-users of the hunter tribes and slave dynasty

?!
The false whitecape got blown away!?
Ma-
maru...
Why?!

You two are too blinded.
What'll you do if we hear more and get targeted for disposal as well?
So ?!
Think of Shun and Reiko!
That's right...
Ma-
Ma-moru's right!

Saki... Let's try to think that it's enough to
keep them in our hearts as we go on living.

Please under-stand.

!!
Sorry, Maria.

Right?

I can't stand that one of our classmates might be killed at any time!
We need to find the Cats of Impurity and get rid of them at least!
Even if the adults' actions are correct,

...

No! I do love you! But...

You don't love me, is that right?
You won't listen to me 'cause...

How can you say you love me after hearing that?!
Don't just try to paper over it!!

But...
Shut up! Stop talking to me!!

I hate you, Saki!

If we get going now, the adults won't find out.
That ought to do. We're going back.

Saki, how do you plan on finding the Case of Impurity?
Hm?
Satoru-
I'll help you.
I've heard some rumors about Dupe Cats. Let's go on that.

Thanks
Auto-repair in progress. 219 hours, 31 minutes and 19 seconds remaining
Auto-repair in progress 219 hours
Auto-repair in progress

Yeah.
Saki, after class today...

I haven't said a single word to Saki.
Ten days since then.....
...

Maria!
Why don't we talk over there?
Sure.

...

Phew... I didn't get the chance to give you Jasper's drawing at school.
...
Heh... Yeah...

...
Here

Huh?
Just... stop...

bring me pictures like these day after day?!
How can you

Aki...
Maria... You don't love Saki anymore?
I don't know... When I see her with Satoru it upsets me, but...
She and I can't ever go back to being this way!
You know too, don't you, Mamoru?
Me, I...
fell for you the moment I saw you at the Holistic Class.
I... don't know what to do anymore !!
I'm meant to have these feelings by whoever's design !!

more than anything else in the world ...
I'm Maria Akizuki.
I thought you were beautiful ...
I'm Group 1, too! Nice to meet you!
...but I was wrong.
Y-Yes!
and your kindness... the way you didn't give up on a loser like me and scolded me.
and your strength, the way you tried to be strong when you were timid at heart...
I felt even more drawn to you ...
Once Saki joined the class, you shone many times more bright.

I want to keep drawing you at your shiniest best.
Because I love you,

Ma-mo-ru!
Hmf!
I-I'm sorry
Hmf! You got dumped, and you're still using this chance to confess your love?

Thanks for doing such a flatteringly good job, always!
Sigh
I'll try and talk to Saki tomorrow
I gotta become strong enough to protect Maria at least...
Yup
Stand up, Mamoru
Are you gonna die here, never ever having tried to become strong?

?
But a guy like me...

Sh-Shut up! Leave us alone!
Y'know, Maria was glaring daggers at me today
Are you two still at it?

It's not like you hate each other, right?
No
are now the only child-hood friends I've got!
I can't leave you alone! You two
?
Tsk.

Even after hearing what we did, I can still say I love her.
Neither 1,000-year-old morals nor any research on bonobos will change that. That's how I honestly feel!

Stop by her place on the way home and make up with her, all right?
I am a girl !!
Aaahh... Suddenly bothering. What are you, some girl?
What ?!
But I'm too ashamed to ask Rei'ta what she thinks...
yoshi
yoshi

Yeah !
All right! Let's go.
Have you gotten nicer, Saboru ?
...
Hee!

If those stories are true and the school manages the Cats of Impurity,
then the inner courtyard, where we aren't allowed, is the most suspicious!
Those spooky tales of Purge Cats in the Volatile Class...

Our last clue!
That is it... Let's get down there.
Ugh...

It stinks of animals
this could be it.
Are those where they sleep?
We're in for more than that!
What?! But why? Didn't we come to get rid of them?
Satoru! We have to get out of here right now!
!!
Look !!

All the doors
are open !!
Wha ?!

You two there !!
?!

I have a bad feeling... We gotta get out of here!
Why? Not a single one left...

Satoru Asahina and Saki Watanabe, yes?
We're hauling you two to the Ethics Committee!
?!

I'll melt you down again in just one night!
Even if you've cooled towards me.
Saki... You're still awake, aren't you? I can't wait until tomorrow!
All right?

!

...
Creepy wind

Grr mya aagh !
pant
pant

!
I'm being pursued?
So the next kid they want to get rid of ...
These are the Cats of Impurity ?!

is
me
?!

Satoru Asahina, this way.
!!

Saki !!
What's gonna happen to us? Are they just gonna ...
Sa-toru !!
get rid of us?!

FROM
THE
NEW
WORLD

CHAPTER 12
WEAK LINK

!!
Gra
!

Then I've got to keep ...
The moment I stop running they'll kill me!
They won't flinch. They're trying to dispose of me no matter what!

With her, I can deal with them!
making for Saki's house!!

...
Where on earth did you take Satoru?!

Where

I won't go down so easily!
Even if they're set on getting rid of us...
Y-You in here.
Uh
Bang
Bang

Huh
?
...

Nice to meet you, Saki.

Chair of the Ethics Committee?!
!!
Our town's top official... Why?
Tomiko Asahina.
I'm the chair of the Ethics Committee.
?!
When the false whitecape was surprise enough.
Ha ha... You've come to know too much, haven't you? Even finding out where the Cats of Impurity sleep...
Please, have a seat.

Are you going to dispose of me?
No. I had you brought here only because I wanted to chat.
That's absurd.
Why would someone like her summon me for that? What's she up to?!
Your life is now
Yes... Watch what you say, young lady.
So you've caught on.
Could it...

hands.
in my

...
Ma... Yu-miko
It's a test... to see if they should dispose of me...
CRUEL

Don't you think a world built on
sacri-ficing kids is abnor-mal?!

A better world where kids don't have to die has to be possible!
How could that be?!
Not so, Saki. As the false whitecake's data indicates, ours is the best possible world.

Seki... Listen.
...
This is also my chance!
If I can convince this woman, I can change the future of our town!

When the time comes, I want you to be my successor.

bring it down— the off chance the false whitecape alluded to...
?!
Even this world, the best possible, conceals a latent risk that could
So I'll tell you this.
What ?!

interpersonal PK attacks are calculated to fall to just 1 in 3,000,000

the 1/3000000 terror.

What does that number mean?!

That's why we blow off a chance of 1 in 3,000,000 as something we could ignore. At first, that is.
There are only 3,000-plus people in this town, and only about 60,000, we believe, across all of Japan.

Someone who will have the power to destroy all of us all alone.

greatly heighten aggression and also lack the shame-death code.
1 in 3,000,000. That's the probability of a child being born with genetic mutations that

It's the probability of a Fiend appearing amongst us!

?!
A Fiend did in fact show up in this town.
And when I was young,

What should I do now...
They're not here... Saki, not her parents!
pant
pant

Why?!
pant
pant
pant

If I'm alone then I'll starve to death sooner or later.
There's some food in the house...
That's it... I'll go back to my house!
Some-one... Dad... Mom...

through this darkness ?!
All the way back home ...
SHUDDER
My body won't listen. My knees ... I can't. Not alone...
Never

ready to die!!
Hell ... I'm not

Perhaps because he was the son of a town dignitary, he wasn't disposed of.
Testing raised suspicions that the boy was highly aggressive.

even with magick
W-- Was there no one who could stop him,

It was a miracle that the Fiend died and we were saved.
!
Since we're endowed with the shame-death code, we can't easily Kill Fiends. We could only run.

One thing is certain: he meant to wipe out every last one of us..
and he became a Fiend. Over a thousand precious lives were lost.

I can imagine how ugly we would seem to people who lived 1,000 years ago as we live on, sacrificing our kids.
If we'd disposed of the boy sooner, we might have averted the calamity.
though we still don't know it now.
We believe a male doctor who was found dead right by the fiend had killed him.

must go on living!
Even so!! We humans

has been disposed of without fail.
After that incident, we've been more stringent with our testing, and any child with foreboding results, no matter who,
...

That house ...
!
The home of the lady who always gives us snacks!
But if we let pity guide us and hesitate to dispose of them, we'll all perish.
It's hard for the parents, too.
Whatever the reason... for the children who get disposed...
If we're to protect this town, our world as it is now is the best one.
Every sacrifice we've made until now will have been for nothing.

Wait ...
Will the lady in that house ...
even help me?
Or will she ...

I'd better get back to my own house!
!

But
what about mom and dad?

Even so, I was a coward and couldn't be like Saki.
When I said that, I knew I was accepting that one day my own kids might be sacrificed too.
Keep them in our hearts as we go on living.
Saki... Let's try to think that it's enough to

people who knew their own kids might get killed but couldn't put up a fight.
I bet mom and dad were like me...

I'd be so happy if they protected me...
Even then...

But they'd cry for me, at least, wouldn't they?
Yeah, right. Heh.

You know what, I...
Hey, Saki... What are you doing right now?

I'm going to die.
I think ...
ZSH

to succeed me and protect this town's future.
No.
That's why I want you, with your peerless strong spirit.
You under-stand, don't you?
...
Is there... Is there really no way to change this world?!

Saki... just once more.

Tell me you love me...

I won't let you...

Ma-
ria
is
mine
to
pro-
tect
!!
Ma-
ria
!!
Raa
aah
!!
Me
aan
ght
Ah
...

I... wasn't alone after all...

...
Given what you've done, you might get disposed of too, Mamoru.
I'm so glad I... made it in time!
Any-ways
Hm!
I had a funny feeling this afternoon. Thinking it might be the Cats of Impurity.
I walked all over town. I didn't know who the target was.

Can you still say
that you're "glad"?
...
So—
I'd protect you in my own way!
I've been musing all day.
I'm a coward, who can't fight things head-on like Saki.
But... because that's the case, when the time comes,

let's run away from this town.
Let's live in the outside world!

I suppose I'll have to go into further detail
as to why I want you to be my successor.

When you took a certain test as a young child, you earned the highest score ever recorded in town.
"The strength of spirit to never lose oneself in any fix."
That's the quality most necessary for the person responsible for the town.

Why did you
Ordinary kids can't so much as harbor wishes about the world outside the Rope.
Since then, you and the rest of Group 1 have been educated with minimal psychological manipulation.

Saki, how old do I look?
What?!
And one more thing.
Our plan was to have the members of Group 1 take over the town's key positions.
Docile sheep alone can't protect the town.

Um... About 67, I guess?
Oh, how rude. Do I really seem like such a granny?
Uh, ah... Sorry!
Heh heh... I am, in fact.
?!
267 years old.

I became the chair... the town leader, 170 years ago.
The Flame incident occurred 245 years ago.
Hah hah. It's the truth.
Wha... Um, you must be joking.
Do you know what telomeres are?
But...
DNA
Telomeres
Cell
I have the ability to restore my telomeres back to their original lengths—a mastery unique to me that allowed me to extend my life indefinitely.
They grow a little shorter each time cells divide. They're like candles that indicate how long you have left to live.
They're the ends of DNA strands within cells.
Repaired!

We discovered that you have the same ability.
That's the other reason I want you to succeed me.

What?

Y-Yes, ma'am!
Seems something has happened. Come with me, Saki!
The BOE has barged in...
?!
Lady Tomiko, forgive me!

Sa-
toru
!
?!
Saki
!
!
It's
hard
for the
pa'-
ents,
too.
Saki
!
sob
sob
Saki
Oh,
I'm so
glad
—
Mom
?
Dad
?!
We
are
the
BOE!
!
Saki
Wata-
nabe
!
KLAK
KLAK

Tell us immediately where Maria Akizuki
and Mamoru Ito are !!

Are you playing dumb?!
Maria Akizuki, targeted for disposal, killed the Cats of Impurity
and, what's more, vanished along with Mamoru Ito! Aren't you the one behind this ?!
Huh ?
What do you mean

We're the ones asking questions !
An-swer us!
Maria's targeted for disposal ?
Wh-What for?!

A magick user gone missing is equivalent to losing track of some weapon that's capable of flattening a mountain.
I see what the situation is, Seki, this represents a grave danger to the whole town.
Calm down, all of you.

You have a three-day grace period!
The two of you must bring them back in time!
But if they come back, I'll make an exception just this once and not dispose of them.
If those two have escaped out of town, we must use any means necessary to kill them.
No ...

Seki and I would believe such a promise?
What, she thinks
Do you consent, Hiromi?
Yes.

We'll find them for sure!
Under-stood!
?!
They're the kind of people who mess with your memories! You think they'll keep their word?
Hey, Saki! Do you really plan on bringing them back?
Saki?
I will definitely find them! That's all.

If Maria and Mamoru have gone past the Rope, there's only one place they'd go.
Let's go after them right away!

...

Maria... Mamoru !!

Did they leave this?

Saki... What did the adults tell you? Don't tell me they've turned you...

?!
Satoru! Here!!

Ma-moru's draw-ings.
These are...

Had they been out here ...
were you really planning on bringing them back ?
Marie... So she kept them all.
...
Hey, Saki!
What else ...

But there's something I need to tell them.
No...

...
A let-ter.
?
Ah.

To my beloved Saki—

You, I'm sure,

But you're different from us. You're a very strong person.

future.
can change the town's

Magick will allow us to survive in the wilderness.
Mamoru and I are going to build a new life together, supporting each other.

that hurts most.
I just regret that we parted before we could make up—

in your arms, that I love you.

I wanted to tell you one more time,

we will meet again in the new, peaceful town that you'll have built.

I pray from the bottom of my heart that one day

With love, your Maria
Waaaaaaah!!
Why...

How could it
be that
there are only two of us left ?!

I can't take this any-more ...
I wanted to tell you that I love you too.

I miss you... Reiko... Shun... Maria !
Why does every-one have to go away ?
Whatever it is, Saki,
It's OK.
you can do it.

We have to build it!
A town that they can return to!
What about you?
I think it'd be safer for you if you went after them and left the town...

What?! Saki?!

All she is, is cheeky!
That's not true.
She's amazing.
I bet she'll end up accomplishing something truly amazing that I couldn't even begin to imagine.

Shun... Don't tell me...
Hm?
You love her?

Get real, Saki!
'Sides, it's not like you can change the town all by yourself!
You'd be too bugged even to sleep at night !!
If I took off too, you'd be all alone!
?!
Hah! Idiot.

Hey... that only happened when I was little
Wha ?!
you'll be so scared you'll wet your bed every night!
L- Look who's talking! If you go back to town,

Heh heh
... Heh
Thanks, Satoru...
Sure.

LOSING PRECIOUS LOVED ONES
ONE AFTER ANOTHER/ MY ADOLES-CENCE.
EVEN THEN, THOSE GREEN YEARS NEVER LOSE THEIR SHEEN IN MY MIND

THANKS TO THE LOVELY MEMORIES I GOT TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE ...
Hey, Maria. Are you sure you're okay about doing this with just me?
Why do you ask?
Don't you mind being stuck with me?
Hmph... I told you before.
I don't hate you, Mamoru.
Huh ?
Mamoru...

I like you!
The most after Saki!

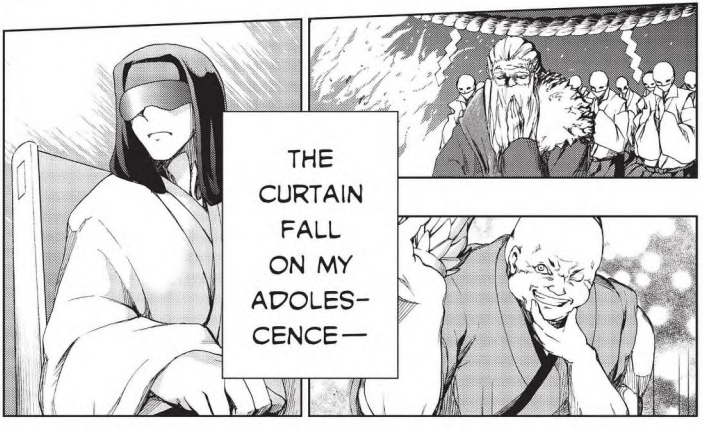
OR MAYBE THAT IS BECAUSE ...
Why do you punish us?!
P-Please stop, dear gods...
But we were doing our duty!
Kiro-mara...
Isn't it obvious? Because you heard things that you were not meant to hear.
Never betray our trust, do you hear?
We hope the Giant Hornets continue to serve us as the colony that is most loyal to humans.

... EVEN MORE CAME TO BE LOST LATER.

O Great White-cape
may you grant us

the wisdom you hold !!

THUS
DID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ON MY
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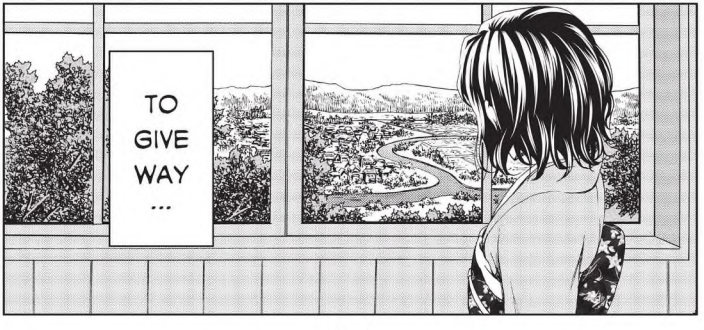
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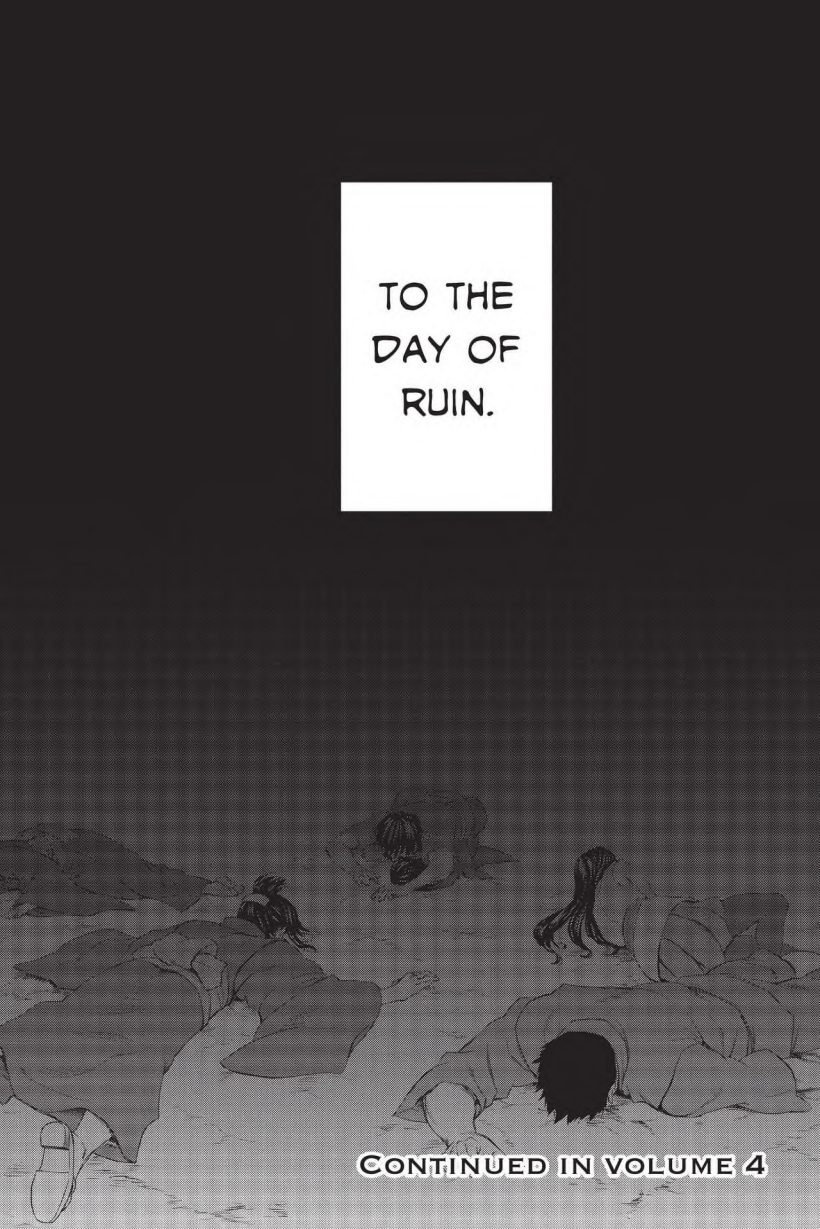
GIVE
WAY
...

TO THE
DAY OF
RUIN.



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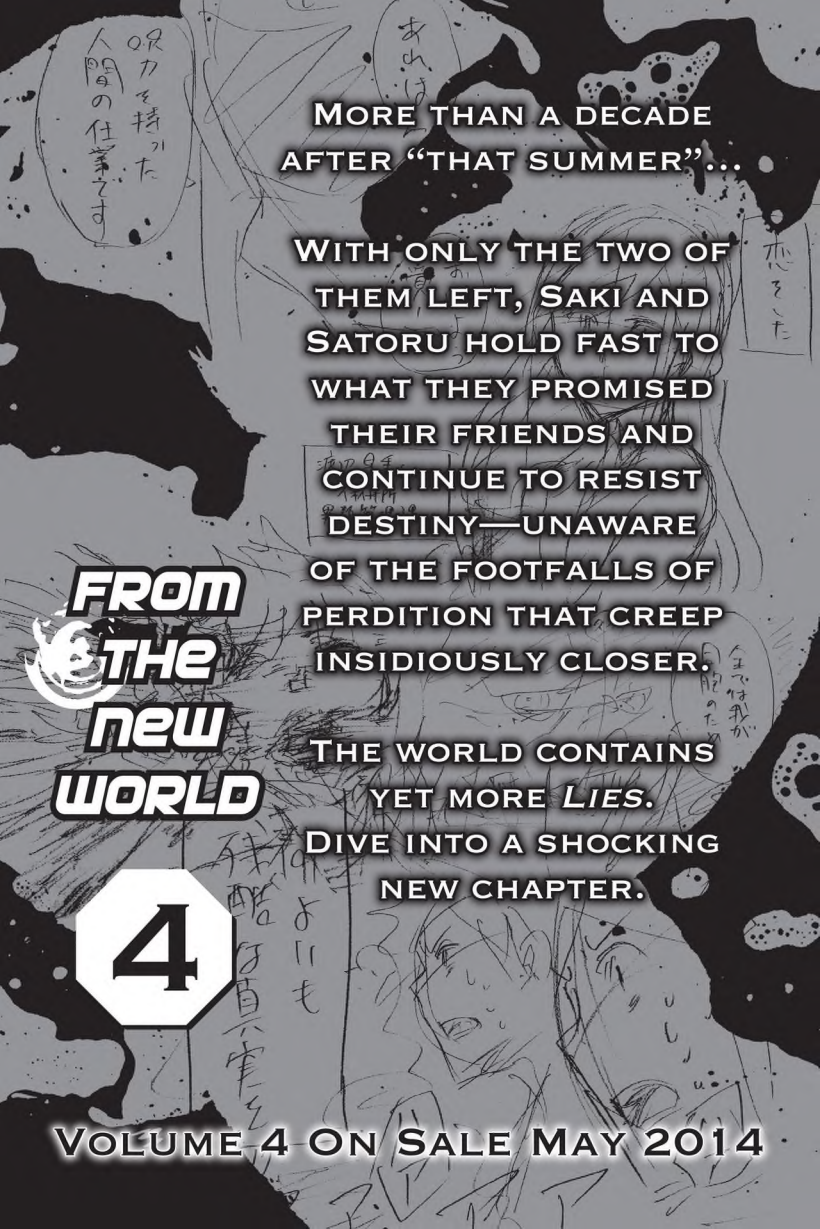
More than a decade after "that summer"...
With only the two of them left, Saki and Satoru hold fast to what they promised their friends and continue to resist destiny—unaware of the footfalls of perdition that creep insidiously closer.
From the New World
The world contains yet more *Lies*. Dive into a shocking new chapter.
4
Volume 4 On Sale May 2014

From the New World Volume 3
KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

STORY BY Yusuke Kishi, ART BY Toru Oikawa

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First published in Japan in 2013 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 978-1-68233-233-7

Digital Edition: 1.0.0